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A PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR OF AMERICAN SAMOA VETERANS DAY 2007

WHEREAS, two hundred and thirty-one years ago, the signers of the Declaration of Independence declared, "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness." One hundred and seven years ago, our own Samoan leaders subscribed to the principles of American independence and democracy; and

WHEREAS, throughout the course of our joint history, courageous men and women have taken up arms to secure, defend, and maintain these core principles upon which our Nation's freedom depend. History has shown that all attempts to assail our spirit failed, and our response reveals that the spirit of freedom is as strong as ever. Following in the footsteps of fellow Americans and American Samoans in years past, American Samoans continue to courageously step forward to join the ranks that defend our land and are now fighting overseas to defeat terrorism; and

WHEREAS, today, American Samoans continue to serve our country in these perilous times of terrorism and war. Many of them willingly entered harms way to fight for our freedom. By their service, they keep America strong. At this moment, men and women of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard are serving around the world. They represent our dedication to achieving a lasting peace out of the new challenges and threats of the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, on Veterans' Day, let us pause to reflect on the sacrifices of all of those who have put on the uniform to serve in the United States military. Let us honor our veterans, who proved their heroism and love of country time and again. They consistently defended our ideals across the globe; and they continue to inspire those who defend America today. More than one million have died in service to America; more than a million and a half have borne the wounds of battle. Some sustained serious injuries in combat and now live with disabilities. Our Nation will always be grateful for the noble sacrifices made by veterans. We can never adequately repay them. But we can honor and respect them for their selfless service; and

WHEREAS, as we consider the sacrifices and efforts of our veterans, we must never forget that freedom comes at a cost. I call upon our veterans to serve our territory by teaching the next generation of young American Samoans the importance of the liberties they helped secure and to remind our youth of the strong principles upon which our great Nation is founded. Our veterans have much to share with our young people about liberty, patriotism, democracy, and independence. After all, they are living examples of the timeless truth that freedom is not free; and

WHEREAS, in respect and recognition of the contributions our service men and women have made to the cause of peace and freedom, the Congress has provided [5 U.S.C. 6105 (a)] that November 11th of each year shall be set aside as a legal public holiday to honor veterans.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TOGIOLA T. A. TULAFONO, Governor of the United States Territory of American Samoa, do hereby proclaim Monday, November 12, 2007, as an official holiday throughout the Territory and urge all citizens and residents to recognize the valor and sacrifice of our veterans through appropriate public ceremonies and private prayers. I call upon Territorial and Local officials to display the flag of the United States and to encourage and participate in patriotic activities in their communities. I invite civic and fraternal organizations, places of worship, schools, businesses, and the media to support this national observance with suitable commemorative expressions and programs.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of my office this 8th day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven.

TOGIOLA T. A. TULAFONO



Gov. Togiola opens Pandemic Influenza Interagency Workshop



(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono opened the Pandemic Influenza Interagency Collaboration Workshop at the Tradewinds Hotel in Tafuna on Tuesday, November 6th.

In his opening remarks, Governor Togiola asked: “If the pandemic arrived tomorrow, will our Public Health and Medical Services be prepared to provide critical services?”

Governor Togiola told the more than 200 participants at the three-day workshop, that the most dangerous people are those that deem the workshop training as futile exercises and a waste of time.

Governor Togiola emphasized the need for key staff members to understand federal role, strategies, and agreements, as well as clearly defining leadership roles, responsibilities, and lines of authority across government and private sectors. He also said the public will be involved in the planning process as “self-reliance” might make all the difference during a crisis.

OPENING REMARKS

“If the pandemic influenza arrived on our shores tomorrow will American Samoa be prepared to protect its people? If the pandemic arrived tomorrow will our Public Health and Medical Services be prepared to provide critical services?

Will our infrastructure support our continuity of operations plans (COOP)? Will your organization know its role or will it exacerbate our response efforts?

Let me say up front, in these situations, the most dangerous people are those that deem these training futile exercises and a waste of time.

In American Samoa, often there is the belief, ‘when life is good, nothing is happening.’ The general attitude is nothing will happen, it will never happen here.

An old man continued to warn the people of a looming tragedy that would befall them but nobody paid heed and called him a senile old man and that nothing was going to happen. The outcome? Everyone perished that thought nothing would ever come of a mad man’s ravings.

We have not witnessed anything like the 1918 pandemic.

It is estimated that approximately 20 to 40 percent of the worldwide population became ill during the 1918 pandemic.

Of the 57,000 Americans who died in WWI, 43,000 died as a result of the Spanish influenza – 85% of all service-related deaths.

Western Samoa lost 20% of its population in a short time. The pandemic killed 5.2% of Fijis population, 4.2% - 8% of Tonga’s, 4.5% of Guam’s and 10% of Tahiti’s.

American Samoa was “influenza free” when the 1918 pandemic reached the Pacific because they banned inbound and outbound travel and mail services. Given the global movement of goods, services, and people in today’s economy that option might not fit our current needs.

Today’s workshop, “Interagency-Collaboration” is about government and private sector stakeholders collaborating on a comprehensive framework that will ensure the maintenance of essential services during a crisis by addressing a host of issues that include the following:

- Key staff members will understand federal role, strategies, and agreements
- Leadership roles, responsibilities, and lines of authority across government and private sectors will be clearly defined
- The public will be involved in the planning process as “self-reliance” might make all the difference during a crisis
- Spread of disease will be controlled
- Plans will be assessed and tested

(Continued on page 4)

Governor Togiola offers sympathy on death of Sgt Lui Tumanuvao in Iraq

(UTULEI) – Governor Togiola Tulafono today, on behalf of the people and government of American Samoa, offered deep and sincere sympathy to the family of U.S. Army Sergeant Lui Tumanuvao of Ili'iili, who died in Arad Jabour, Iraq on Wednesday, November 7, 2007, from wounds suffered when he was struck by an improvised explosive device during combat operations.

The following is the official statement from Governor Togiola:

"It is my prayer that God grant us the peace to comfort all of our hearts on hearing of more sad news of the loss of another American Samoa soldier: U.S. Army Sergeant Lui Tumanuvao of Ili'iili.

Lately, American Samoa knows of the ultimate sacrifice too well. In these difficult times, again, I wish to offer my deepest and sincerest condolences to Sergeant Tumanuva'o's parents, Mr. Kelekolio Tumanuvao and Mrs. Monika Etuale Tumanuvao. Your loss is shared by all of American Samoa. Your son, Lui, has lost his young life of only 29 years-old while serving for our country and we owe him that special respect, also shared by our Toa o Samoa, and a special debt of gratitude that can never be fully repaid. May the comfort of Our Lord be with you at this time of sorrow.

I wish to also send our love and sympathy to his wife, Mrs. Selia Luafalemana Tumanuvao of Aua, and their two very young children --daughter Fa'aea, and son, Lui Jr. I offer you our condolences for this great loss. God is our hope and our strength and may God give you all the strength to find peace and comfort during this most difficult time.

And I would also like to extend our prayers and our support to the entire Tumanuvao, Etuale and Luafalemana families.

American Samoa joins me, Mary, Lieutenant Governor Ipulasi and Mrs. Sunia to together share this time of great grief of another great soldier, a son, a husband, a father and a friend who put his life on the line to preserve our way of life.

May God lift up our hearts and fill it with His true peace."

HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor

On November 7, 1918, The Union Steamship Company's SS *Talune*, with many Spanish Influenza-infested passengers aboard, arrived in Apia Harbor from Auckland, New Zealand at 9:35 a.m. *Talune's* captain told the medical officer, Doctor Atkinson, that nothing was serious, but that "One old reverend told me he had been sick back in Auckland, but he seems fine now. Two Samoan kids, Tau and Faleolo, had headaches yesterday but are up and around again today." The doctor "questioned the pastor and two boys as they went by, but no one complained of being ill. Two hours later the yellow flag was lowered. The *Talune* had a clean bill of health." The flu devastated Western Samoa, killing at least 7,542 people. No one died in quarantined American Samoa, which, thanks to the Naval Administration's precautions, was one of the few places in the world which was not affected by the flu pandemic.

On November 7, 2003, Private Jonathan Falaniko, the second Samoan soldier to be killed in Operation Iraqi Freedom, was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery. He was the first Samoan soldier to be buried there.

On November 7, 2006, American Samoa native Mike Gabbard, was elected on to the Hawaii State Senate, making him the first Hawaii state senator of Samoan ancestry to serve in the Hawaii Legislature. Gabbard won the election over retired Honolulu police captain, George Yamamoto, by receiving 56% of the vote. He has also been selected to be Minority Policy Leader. Gabbard previously served as a Honolulu City Councilman (Ewa, Kapolei, Waianae Coast) from 2003 to 2005. Gabbard was born to Benjamin Harrison Gabbard and Agnes Yandall Gabbard of Leloaloe and lived in American Samoa from 1971-1983. During this time, Gabbard taught at Faga'itua and Samoana High School, and served at American Samoa Community College as a guidance counselor, Assistant Dean of Instruction and Dean of Adult and Community Education.

On November 10, 1910, Commander William Michael Crose relieved Captain John F. Parker, and took office as the seventh naval governor of American Samoa

On November 11, 1920, Captain Waldo Evans took office as American Samoa's 13th naval governor (until March 1, 1922), following the suicide of Commander Warren Jay Terhune on November 3, 1920

On November 12, 1919, the Annual Meeting between the Governor of American Samoa (Commander Warren Jay Terhune) and the District Governors was held in the Enlisted Men's Barracks at the US Naval Station Tutuila. Two interesting resolutions proposed by the Manu'a District Governor were "That prisoners be put to work and other public projects, and not as cooks for the Navy Yard" and that "all visitors from Upolu undergo medical examination[s]." (The latter was in reference to the influenza pandemic which ravaged Western Samoa but did not affect American Samoa because of the strict quarantine imposed by the Naval Administration).

On November 14, 1899, a tripartite commission, consisting of Freiherr Speck von Sternberg for Germany, Mr. C.E.N. Elliott for Britain and the Honorable Bartlett Tripp representing the United States, meeting aboard USS *Badger*, reached and signed an agreement for the partition of Samoa. Under the terms of this Tripartite Agreement, the United States gained control of Tutuila, Aunu'u and Manu'a. Germany was awarded the remaining Samoan islands, and gave up her claims in Tonga, and certain disputed areas in the Solomon Islands and in West Africa. Britain gave up her claims in Samoa in exchange for dominion over the Solomon Islands and a sphere of influence in Tonga.

Pandemic Influenza Interagency Workshop *(continued from page 2)*

We have a situation of 'uncoordinated efforts vs planned response.' Departments maybe ready, but the Territory is not.

But coordinating anything is never a simple task. In a pandemic situation, the most immediate impact might not arise from the number of injuries, but from "uncoordinated efforts" between all key stakeholders. Perhaps the most challenging aspect of achieving an effective "Preparedness Plan" will be coordinating people from different segments of society whose interests, experiences, and beliefs differ.

This brings us to a more fundamental question that we might ask if we do not plan adequately and that is "do we as a society and culture believe in preparing for such a crisis?"

What social values does "Preparedness for a Pandemic Influenza" have to you? To me? To American Samoa? Is it because the Feds require us to come with one? Or do flashbacks of 9-11, SARS, and Bird Flu motivate us?

If "Preparedness" is not a socially accepted concept in American Samoa today then it is our job as leaders of our organizations to do the challenging work of helping people understand that we are not immune to the spread of influenza viruses or to bioterrorism. Buying into "Preparedness Planning" is not intended to promote paranoia among our people. Rather it aims to help us become more informed about the world we live in and to know how to live in that world.

So, how do we bring the message forward? We need to work together and be socially informed.

In a collection of state anecdotes on the impact of the 1918 influenza on states gathered for each states pandemic summit last year, one story noted how in Alaska "People were checked periodically for flu and, if healthy, were given armbands reading "OK Fairbanks Health Department". In Arizona, each person had to wear a mask in public. Those who coughed or spat without covering their mouths were arrested. In Los Angeles, local health officials were optimistic. They were noted to have said, "If ordinary precautions are observed, there is no cause for alarm." They could not have been more wrong. The disease exploded around the state of California.

The collection of anecdotes did not include a story from American Samoa. But it should have. We were "influenza free" during the 1918 influenza. And I wish I could say that if we implement the same preventative measures we will avoid all influenzas from reaching our shores. Unfortunately that is not the world we live in today and that is why the Joint Task Force - Homeland Defense's work this morning on "Interagency-Collaboration" is critical to American Samoa being prepared.

When asked to tell our story, I want to say that we once again remained "influenza free" not because we closed our borders but because our "Preparedness Plan" was assessed and tested and that all stakeholders "collaborate" to create an infrastructure that met the needs of all sectors of society.

That's the story I want to tell. A story of collaboration and effective coordination. So, lets begin our work. What story do you want to tell?"



ASG RADIO PROGRAM

With: Governor Togiola Tulafono

On: Showers of Blessings - FM 104.7

Saturdays @ 7a.m. Call 699-8123 or 699-8124

ASCC Students Participate in STEM Excursion to Hawaii

By James Kneubuhl, ASCC Press Officer

Two students at the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) recently returned from a four-day excursion to Hawaii, where they participated in Campus Discovery Days, an initiative aimed at familiarizing promising students from across the American Pacific with academic opportunities available in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (commonly grouped together under the acronym STEM). During their whirlwind Hawaii visit, ASCC students Anthony Felise of Pavai'ia'i and Jordan Taliva'a of Fagaitua, accompanied by science instructor Dr. Kenneth Belle, toured the Manoa and Hilo campuses of the University of Hawaii, as well as Chaminade University and Hawaii Pacific University, where they learned about STEM support programs, scholarships available, graduate programs, and other aspects of pursuing careers in science and its related fields.

Organized by the National Science Foundation's Islands of Opportunity Alliance (IOA), as part of the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) program, the Campus Discovery Days event included students from Guam, the Marshall Islands, the Northern Marianas and Palau, in addition to the visitors from American Samoa. U.H. Hilo serves as the lead institution of the IOA, a collaboration by 17 community colleges, colleges and universities throughout Hawaii and the American Pacific to increase the overall number of underrepresented students receiving bachelor degrees in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math.

The IOA member institutions work individually and collectively towards four main objectives: 1) Create, maintain, and/or expand partnership activities designed to recruit well-qualified, under-represented community college students into STEM baccalaureate degree programs within the Alliance universities. 2) Provide internship and research experiences for those pursuing baccalaureate degrees in STEM disciplines. 3) Promote retention and progression rates amongst scholars by creating a scholarly learning community which encourages academic excellence and supports it through appropriate advising, mentoring, and academic support programs. 4) Improve instruction in STEM courses, particularly the gateway science and mathematics courses, through faculty development of high context teaching approaches.

ASCC joined the Alliance last year, and the recent Hawaii trip marked the first occasion where students from the College took part in the IOA Campus Discovery Days. Dean of Academic Affairs Dr. Irene Helsham, who wrote the initial proposal for ASCC to join the IOA, recalled how funding for the October trip arrived shortly before the beginning of Campus Discovery Days, which meant that she had to select the student participants on short notice. "Luckily, both the students chosen had previously declared their interest in majoring in STEM areas, Anthony in math and Jordan in Marine Science. They'd also fulfilled the other necessary qualifications as far as grade point average and having completed necessary core courses, so everything worked out fine."

Following the Hawaii visit, Anthony described the excursion as "inspiring", and said he now feels confident that he will have a firm support group to help him along when he begins classes as a math major at U.H. Hilo this coming January. "As a member of the Alliance, the Hilo campus will provide me with academic support, and will also assist me with scholarship opportunities," he explained. Anthony credits his high school math teacher, Dr. Screeni Panickar, with helping him develop the skills in the subject he hopes to someday teach himself. "Before I moved to Pavai'ia'i, I attended Fagaitua High School, where Dr. Panickar encouraged me to tutor other students in math," Anthony recalled, "and helping them made me realize the satisfaction that comes when you can make others understand something they usually have difficulty with. I definitely think we need more bilingual math teachers in American Samoa, and I want to be one of them."

Dr. Belle related that during their visits to the U.H. campuses in Manoa and Hilo, he, Anthony and Jordan found it surprising how many former ASCC students they would encounter. "I had heard that quite a few ASCC students go on to attend U.H.," said Dr. Belle, "but I still didn't expect to see so many. A lot of them told me that once they started their U.H. classes, they felt grateful for the way ASCC had prepared them to handle college life. They said that the quality of work their ASCC teachers expected of them seemed really hard at the time, but that now they realized how this made them ready to handle the work expected at U.H."

SHARE IMPORTANT INFORMATION & ACTIVITIES

with your ASG workforce as well as the citizens of American Samoa. Email your articles, announcements, pictures or other information to: Harry Stevens (harry.stevens@americansamoa.gov) or Vince Iuli (vince.iuli@americansamoa.gov)

Governor Togiola holds monthly Cabinet Meeting

(UTULEI) – The General Accounting Office visit and payment of overtime were among topics discussed by Governor Togiola Tulafono at his monthly Cabinet Meeting held at the Office of the Governor on Wednesday, November 7th.

General Accounting Office Visitation (GAO)

Governor Togiola Tulafono thanked all directors, and especially Secretary of Samoan Affairs – Paramount Chief Mauga Tasi Asuega and District Governors, for helping make the GAO visit very successful.

“The response from GAO was they received excellent cooperation from all government officials. It is very important for us to help people express their views. People need to be free to express themselves,” said Governor Togiola.

Payment of Overtime

Governor Togiola said the easiest way to deal with this issue is to follow the law. He was referring to a memo from Treasurer Velega Savali regarding requests for payment for overtime. The memo to all directors said, “Effective immediately employees that are Grade 12 or higher cannot be paid overtime at time and half nor will they be paid for more than 40 hours per week at straight time wages. This includes reimbursed over time for all agencies and departments.

American Samoa Government (ASG) Website

ASG website: www.americansamoa.gov: Referring to a memo from the Governor’s Communications Director – Dr. Jacinta Galea’i, Governor Togiola informed directors to designate a staff member in their offices to do regular write-ups of department activities to be submitted to the website. Departments are involved in a lot of good work but the public is not informed about it.

The memo informed the departments that the Office of the Governor is in the process of centralizing and updating the American Samoa Government website to improve communications among departments and with the general public regarding government services. In order to complete these goals, the website staff require news items, photos of events or other interesting items, as well as department missions, goals, and contact information, etc., to be submitted to the website.

As government agencies, part of the service to the public is to communicate government services, information, activities, and policies and it is the hope of the Office of the Governor that the ASG website will fulfill that public service.

“I highly encourage you, directors, and your departments to visit our website at www.americansamoa.gov and provide us with any suggestions that will help American Samoa meet its communications responsibilities to the public both in and out of the Territory,” said Governor Togiola.

Festival of the Pacific Arts

Director Lauti Simona informed all directors that his office is working together with the Office of Tourism at the Department of Commerce to create a “Calendar of Events” to inform the public and ASG of government events, and he hopes that it will prevent conflicts with events before, during and after the festival. Lauti asked directors for their full cooperation.

Documentary on Teen Pregnancy – “Preventing the Consequences”

Youth & Women Affairs Director – Leiautau Leuga Turner reminded directors of a documentary presented by Crossroads Theater for Youth on Saturday, November 10th at 7pm on three channels: KVZK-TV Channel 5, Malama TV Cable Channel 4 and Island Music Channel 10. It focuses on teen pregnancy and will be followed by a panel to discuss teen pregnancy, child abuse and a host of other social issues affecting our people in American Samoa.

It is entitled: “PREVENTING THE CONSEQUENCES”. Leiautau asked all directors to join her department in promoting awareness of the current problems facing our young people. They are our future so we need to address issues that are impacting their lives today.

Governor Togiola thanked all directors for their hard work, and wished them all the best.

The Governor’s monthly Cabinet Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month. The next meeting is scheduled for December 5th.